

Appl. Serial No. 09/804,465
Amendment Dated March 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 12, 2003.

REMARKS

Applicants and Applicants' undersigned counsel appreciate the Examiner's courtesy of reconsidering and, by communication received by Applicants' undersigned counsel on March 12, 2004, withdrawing the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims of Applicants' application are in condition for allowance.

I. Objections to the Drawings

Addressing the objection at paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Applicants have amended the Specification at paragraph [0046], line 4, changing the reference number of the support from "34" to "31," and have amended FIGS. 8A and 8B to show "31" as the reference number for the depicted support structure, to conform with the amended Specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments are for form and do not add any new matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment places FIGS. 8A and 8B into conformance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4), and therefore respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Addressing the objection at paragraph 3 of the Office Action, regarding reference numbers "72" and "74," Applicants have amended the Specification to conform to the drawings. Stated with greater specificity, the Office Action points out that reference characters "72" and "74" have been used in the specification, see line 4 of [0061] and line 2 of [0062], to designate nozzles whereas only number "74" is used in Fig. 10 of the drawings. Applicants have amended the specification at paragraph [0062] to designate the nozzle as "74." Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment is for form and does not add any new matter.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment to the specification places FIG. 10 into conformance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4), and therefore respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Addressing the objection at paragraph no. 4 of the Office Action, Applicants have amended FIG. 7A, which is a top view, to label the three depicted targets 2x, 2y and 2z, which conforms to the and have amended paragraph [0048] of the Specification to use the same labels. Stated with greater specificity, the passage in paragraph [0048] identified by the Examiner describes operations in reference to FIGS. 7A and 8A. Applicants have amended FIG. 7A, which is a top view, to label targets 2x, 2y and 2z, and have amended paragraph [0048] to use the same labels. Paragraph [0048] originally referenced targets 2x, 2y and 2z collectively as item 2. See Applicants' Specification, as originally filed, at paragraph [0014].

Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art, upon reading Applicants' originally filed specification and drawings, would understand that the targets shown in FIGS. 7A and 7B, and now labeled as 2x, 2y and 2z, are the objects described as "targets" in FIG. 7A and 7B at paragraph [0048] and elsewhere in Applicants' specification. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the amendments to FIGS. 7A and 7B and to paragraph [0048] are for form and do not add any new matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the FIG. 7A and FIG. 7B depiction of the targets 2x, 2y and 2z is sufficient to depict the claimed subject matter within the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). FIGS. 8A and 8BB are end views, accurately depicting the sprockets 9A, 9B and 9C, and accurately depicting that these sprockets, from that viewing direction, block the view of the targets 2x, 2y and 2z. Showing targets 2x, 2y and 2z in FIGS. 8A or 8B would require a cut-away, or additional sectional view which, because of FIGS. 7A and 7B, is not necessary for an

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understanding of the claimed inventions and, accordingly, is not required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a).

Similarly, Applicants' originally filed FIG. 7A depicts the target diameter sensor 20. Applicants respectfully submit that the purpose of the end view in Fig. 8A is to depict aspects of the described apparatus not readily visible in the top view Fig. 7A, and replicating all structure in all figures is not necessary understanding of the claimed inventions, and is not required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a).

Applicants respectfully submit, for the reasons above, that the instant amendment adding labels 2x, 2y and 2z to FIGS. 7A and 7B renders FIGS. 7A, 7B, 8A, and 8B compliant with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a), with respect to all claimed subject matter. Applicants therefore respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

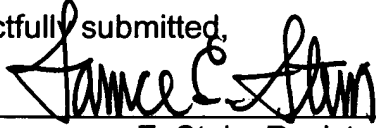
III. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Applicants' undersigned counsel received a communication from the Examiner on March 12, 2004 indicating that the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is withdrawn.

Applicants note, for the record, the description at paragraphs [0006] and [0007] of Applicants' originally filed specification. Applicants' further note that the coil 52 to torch housing 4C1, 4C2, 4C3 and 4C4 relationship is clearly shown in Fig. 3. Examples, as explained at [0023], of the torch diameter of Fig. 3 are: 60 mm for 4C1; 80 mm for 4C2; 100 mm for 4C3 and 120 mm for 4C4 and therefore the coil diameter would be from 62 mm to 70 mm (between 2-10 mm) for torch 4C1; from 82 mm to 90 mm for torch 4C2; from 102 mm to 110 mm for torch 4C3 and from 122 mm to 130 mm for torch 4C4.

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Thus, having complied with all of the matters raised by the examiner, applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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